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Cancel claims 8-17, 22-25 and 27-39 without prejudice.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 7, 18-21 and 26 have been amended to deal with the Examiner's objections for indefiniteness under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph. Claims 8-17, 22-25 and 27-39 have been canceled, without prejudice. Claims 1-7, 18-21 and 26 remain in this application and stand for examination. Reconsideration and reexamination are requested in view of the foregoing amendments and the comments made hereinafter.

Rejection of claims 1-7, 18-21 and 26 for indefiniteness

The Examiner rejects claims 1-7, 18-21 and 26 for indefiniteness under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph.

Corrections have now been made to the claims in accordance with the Examiner's rejections. Specifically, the backwash water inlet of claims 1 and 26 has been defined separately from the plurality of panel members forming the underdrain. Claims 6 and 7 have been amended to provide that the air passageway comprises formed sides and bottom rather than the previously recited "hat section". Claim 18 has been amended by removing the term "bridges and slotted apertures" with the term --apertures-. Claims 19-21 have been amended to properly depend from claim 18.

Reconsideration is requested.

Indication of allowable subject matter

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in respect of this case is noted with appreciation. Assuming that today's amendment is favourably received, these claims should now be allowable.

In view of the above, it would appear that all of the

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rejections and objections raised by the Examiner have been dealt with in today's response. Reconsideration and reexamination are requested and allowance of this application is respectfully solicited.

Today's paper is accompanied by an attachment showing the corrections made to the claims and entitled "VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO INDICATE CHANGES MADE"

Respectfully submitted,

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VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO INDICATE CHANGES MADE

18. A filter underdrain assembly for controlling backwash water flow <sup>from</sup> ~~including~~ a backwash water inlet <sup>said filter underdrain assembly</sup> comprising a plurality of panel members forming a grid-like underdrain, each panel member having a plurality of apertures, the cross-sectional area of said apertures in said panel members varying between said panel members, said apertures of said panel members being located further away from said backwash water inlet having a lesser cross-sectional area relative to said cross-sectional area of said apertures of said panel members closer to said backwash water inlet.

6. A filter underdrain assembly as in claim 3 wherein said air passageway <sup>extends below said upper surface of said panel member, said air passageway being formed from interconnected surfaces defining sides and bottom</sup> ~~is formed generally as a hat section~~, said hat section having perforations <sup>sides</sup> positioned below said upper surface of said panel member.

<sup>being formed from interconnected surfaces defining sides and a bottom, said air passageway</sup>

<sup>to allow air to escape from said air passageway</sup>

A filter underdrain assembly as in claim 3 wherein said air passageway ~~is formed generally as a hat section~~, said air passageway having perforations extending through said upper surface of said panel member.

<sup>extends below said upper surface of said panel member</sup>

18. Filter underdrain apparatus ~~including a backwash water inlet~~ for controlling backwash water flow maldistribution from said backwash water inlet, said filter underdrain apparatus comprising a plurality of panel ~~elements~~ <sup>members</sup> assembled adjacent each other to form a grid like underdrain, each panel element <sup>member</sup> having multiple punched bridges <sup>apertures</sup> in a surface thereof, each bridge defining a pair of water inlet/outlet <sup>apertures</sup> ~~slotted apertures~~ and wherein the number and <sup>size</sup> of said punched bridges <sup>and slotted apertures</sup> ~~and slotted apertures~~ <sup>members</sup> respectively are varied from panel ~~element~~ <sup>member</sup> to panel element, said panel ~~elements~~ <sup>members</sup> furthest away from said backwash

inlet/outlets

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apertures

water inlet having a lesser number of bridges or smaller slotted apertures from said panel elements nearer to said backwash water inlet, said panel <sup>members</sup> elements being operable to provide a substantially equalised water flow through the underdrain assembly from said panel <sup>members</sup> elements.

19. Apparatus <sup>apertures</sup> according to claim 18 wherein said multiple punched bridges are sized to substantially prevent the passage of filter media therethrough.

20. Apparatus according to claim 19 and further comprising an attachment for attaching each of said panel <sup>members</sup> elements to adjacent panel <sup>members</sup> elements and securing said panel members to said underdrain <sup>assembly</sup>.

21. Apparatus according to claim 20 and further comprising a seal for forming a substantially watertight seal between a surface of each of said panel <sup>members</sup> elements and said underdrain <sup>members</sup>.

26. Filter underdrain assembly ~~including a backwash water inlet~~ for controlling backwash water flow from said <sup>inlet</sup> backwash water inlet, said underdrain assembly comprising a plurality of panel members forming a grid like underdrain, each panel member having a plurality of apertures, the number or cross-sectional area of said apertures varying between said panel members, said panel members located further away from said backwash water inlet having a lesser number or <sup>size of</sup> smaller cross-sectional area of said apertures relative to said panel members located closer to said backwash water inlet, said panel members being operable to substantially equalize water flow from each of said panel members of said filter underdrain assembly.